

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action mailed November 24, 2003. The specification has been amended to insert subject headings. A substitute abstract has been provided that corresponds to the invention being claim and that is within the 50-150 word limit. No new matter is believed to be added to application by this Amendment.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-34 are pending in the application. Claims 20-33 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. The claims have been amended to improve their language without reducing their scope. The claim amendments are not directed at overcoming the prior art rejection.

Election/Restriction

The Examiner has restricted the invention into the following groups:

- I. Claims 1-19 and 34, drawn to a composition;
- II. Claims 20-30, drawn to an assembly; and
- III. Claims 31-33, drawn to a method.

Further to the telephone conversation with the Examiner on July 12, 2003, Election of Group I (claims 1-19 and 34) with traverse is affirmed.

The composition of Group I, the assembly of Group II and the method of Group III are so intimately interrelated that no undue burden is placed on the Examiner. Accordingly, rejoinder and examination of all claims on the merits is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) Over Schmidt

Claims 1-19 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Schmidt (U.S. Patent 6,482,281). Applicants traverse.

The present invention pertains to a releasable adhesive that can be removed with no residue at small peel-off angles. The invention finds a typical embodiment in claim 1, which sets forth:

1. A hot-melt adhesive comprising a non-pressure-sensitive adhesive that is fluid at application temperatures and that is removable, residue-free, by peeling at small peel angles, wherein said adhesive contains additives selected from the group consisting of fillers, stabilizers, dyes, carbon black, and moisture absorbents, said adhesive also containing the following:
 - a) thermoplastic elastomers that may be grafted,
 - b) grafted poly- α -olefins,
 - c) polyisobutylene or a softening oil,
 - d) adhesive resin, and
 - e) end block resin.

Schmidt pertains to hot-melt adhesives for vehicle lights or vehicle headlamps. The hot-melt adhesives of Schmidt are characterized by containing:
“a) from 0.5 to 15% by weight of optionally grafted thermoplastic elastomers; b)

from 5 to 40% by weight of optionally grafted poly-.alpha.-olefins except polyisobutylene; c) from 5 to 45% by weight of adhesive resins; and d) from 5 to 55% by weight of polyisobutylenes.” See Abstract of Schmidt.

Schmidt fails to disclose a hot melt that can be removed without residue at low peel angles. Schmidt additionally fails to disclose using moisture adsorbents.

In contrast, the invention is directed at producing a hot melt adhesive that can be removed without residue at low peel angles. Schmidt fails to disclose or suggest how this property can be obtained. On the other hand, the technology of Schmidt is directed toward optimizing flow properties where “the conveyability of the hot-melt adhesives according to the invention is of particular importance.” See Schmidt at column 3, lines 30-31. Schmidt therefore does not address the problems of residue at low angle peel.

Further, the patentability over Schmidt was confirmed by the European Patent Office during the Examination of European Patent Application 00125464, which belongs to the same patent family as the present invention. DE-A-19504425 (corresponding to U.S. Patent 6,482,281 of Schmidt) was cited and overcome in this application.

As a result, Schmidt clearly fails to anticipate the invention set forth in claim 1. Claims depending on claim 1 are patentable for at least the above reasons.

Drawings

The Examiner is respectfully requested to indicate whether the drawings figures are acceptable in the next official action.

Foreign Priority

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge foreign priority in the next official action.

Information Disclosure Statements

The Examiner is thanked for considering the Information Disclosure Statement filed February 20, 2001 and for making the initialed PTO-1449 form of record in the Office Action mailed November 24, 2003. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the Information Disclosure Statement filed February 24, 2004 and to make the initialed PTO-1449 form of record in the application in the next official action.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert E. Goozner, Ph.D. (Reg. No. 42,593) at the telephone number of the undersigned

Amendment of March 24, 2004

Appln. No.: 09/715,138

Response to Office Action of November 24, 2003 Atty. Docket No.: 0179-0240P

Group 1714

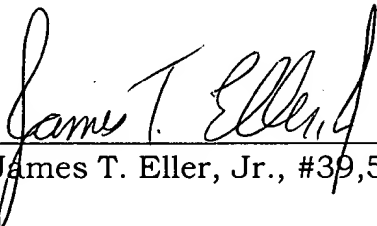
below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.


Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) respectfully petition(s) for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee of \$110.00 is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 
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0179-0240P

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Attachment(s): substitute abstract